

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
JULY 24, 2017
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2017-0364
2116 CLIFTON STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1924 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, hip-roofed frame house with shiplap wood siding, single and triple 1:1 and 2:2 wood-sash windows, and a gable-roofed entry porch.

RESEARCH

The house was built ca. 1924. Newell and Jessie King were the first owners and occupants, but by 1927 the house had been sold to Walter and Ollie Faubion. Walter worked at UT as a carpenter and maintenance man. The Faubions rented out a second unit at 2116 ½ Clifton to various tenants from 1941 until ca. 1952. Calvin and Virginia Eby rented the entire house briefly ca. 1954, with no unit listed at 2116 ½. Calvin was enlisted in the USAF. By 1958, Guenther and Edna Wittig had purchased the house, where they lived until ca. 1972. Guenther worked as a machinist and instrument maker at UT, eventually managing the machine lab, and Edna worked as a teacher, stenographer, and secretary. After the Wittigs moved out, the house was occupied by various people – mostly renters – for brief periods. Building permits from 1982 indicate that the house was converted to a duplex via remodeling and an addition.

STAFF COMMENTS

The house was included in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984), which did not assign it any architectural significance. The house is not designated at the state or national levels.

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old, having been constructed ca. 1924.
- 2) The building retains a high degree of integrity.
- 3) Properties must meet two historic designation criteria for landmark designation. The property does not appear to demonstrate significance according to any of the historic designation criteria listed in the City of Austin Land Development Code (Section 25-2-352):
 - a. **Architecture.** The building is built in a vernacular style and does not possess architectural distinction within this style.
 - b. **Historical association.** Two families lived in the house for two decades each. However, there do not appear to be historically significant associations.

Walter and Ollie Faubion lived in the house from ca. 1927 until ca. 1952. Walter worked as a carpenter for UT for thirty years.

Guenther “Kayo” and Edna Wittig lived in the house from ca. 1958 until ca. 1967. Guenther managed the machine lab at UT and Edna worked as a teacher, stenographer, and secretary.
 - c. **Archaeology.** The house was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.

- d. **Community value.** The house does not possess a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, the neighborhood, or a particular demographic group.
- e. **Landscape feature.** The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

2116 Clifton Street does not appear to meet the criteria for designation as a historic landmark.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission encourage rehabilitation and adaptive reuse. If rehabilitation and reuse are not feasible, then staff encourages relocation over demolition, and recommends release of the permit upon completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package—consisting of photographs of all elevations, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history, for archiving at the Austin History Center.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2017-0364
2116 CLIFTON STREET



1" = 250'

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

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PROPERTY INFORMATION



East (primary) façade of 2116 Clifton Street



South and east facades

Occupancy History

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
 By Historic Preservation Office staff
 July 2017

- 1992 Robert Rogers, renter
 No employment listed
- 2116B* – Kenny Hatfield, renter
 No employment listed
- 1985-86 Lynn Wolfe, renter
 Employee at Clarksville Café, 1200 West Lynn
- 1981 No return
- 1977 Mark and Linda Ahern, renters
 Teacher at public school
- 1972 Harold D. and Linda Bennight, owners
 Computer technician at IRS
- 1967 Guenther R. and Edna E. Wittig, owners
 Tech staff assistant at UT
- 1964 Guenther R. and Edna E. Wittig and children Arthur, Bruce, and Sandra, owners
 Instrument maker at UT; children were all students
- 1961 Guenther R. and Edna E. Wittig and son Arthur, owners
 Instrument maker at UT (Guenther); teacher at Winn School (Edna); student
 (Arthur)
- 1958 Guenther R. and Edna Wittig, owners
 Machinist at UT (Guenther), teacher at John B. Winn Elementary School (Edna)
- 2116 ½* – Vacant
- 1954 Calvin L. and Virginia A. Eby, renters
 USAF
- 1952 Walter D. and Ollie Faubion, owners
 Maintenance staff, no place of employment listed
- 2116 ½* – Clif and Ann Overcash, renters
 USAF (Clif); dental assistant at Cliff H. Roper (Ann), 103 ½ E. 6th Street
- 1949 Walter D. and Ollie Faubion, owners
 Maintenance staff, UT

- 2116 ½ – L. Otto and Nell Rosenbaum, renters
Parts manager, Leo M. Black Motors (“Your Studebaker Dealer”), 404-406 Brazos
- 1944-45 Walter D. and Olive Faubion, owners
Carpenter at UT
- 2116 ½ – Herbert O. and Mary Kull and child, renters
U.S. Army
- 1941 Walter D. and Ollie Faubion and 2 children, owners
Carpenter, UT
- 2116 ½ – Wayne and Lucille Tegge
Salesman, Walter Tips Co., 2nd and Colorado (“wholesale hardware, machinery, agricultural implements, wagon woodwork, guns, sporting goods, automobile accessories, radios and radio supplies, electrical supplies”)
- 1939 W. D. and Ollie H. Faubion and 2 children, owners
Carpenter, no place of employment listed
- La Verne Faubion
Key punch operator at State Comptroller
- 1935 W. D. and Ollie Faubion, owners
Carpenter, NPEL
- Laverne Faubion
Secretary at First M. E. Church (South), 1200 Colorado
- 1930-31 W. D. and Ollie Faubion, owners
Carpenter, no place of employment listed
- Laverne Faubion, stenographer
- 1927 W. D. and Ollie Faubion, owners
Carpenter, no place of employment listed
Note: The house is listed as 210 Clifton in 1927.
- 1924 Newell L. and Jessie E. King, owners
Carpenter, no place of employment listed
Note: The house is listed as 210 Clifton in 1924. The Faubions were living at 1900 Red River at this time.

Biographical Notes

Walter David Faubion was born in 1887 in Leander, Texas. In 1917 he was working as a farmer in Alice, Texas, but moved to Austin with his family ca. 1927. There, he began working for UT as a gardener, a job he stayed in for thirty years. He retired around 1957 and moved to Dallas, where he died in 1966.

Ollie Hart Faubion was born in 1889 in Travis County. She died in Georgetown in 1979.

Guenther “Kayo” Reinhardt Wittig was born in 1913 in Fredericksburg to a farming family. He lived in New York in 1935. By 1940, he had moved to Philadelphia and was working as a machinist. There, he met and married Edna Hickson. In 1946 the family moved back to Fredericksburg and bought Guenther’s family dairy farm. In the 1950s, Guenther got a job managing the machine lab at UT. He died in Austin in 1994. See the biography from UT’s Department of Physics (below) for more information.

Edna Emma Hickson Wittig was born in 1914 in Gloucester, New Jersey. She worked variously as a stenographer/secretary, a teacher, and a librarian, earning a Master’s degree from UT. In 1998 she received an award as Austin’s Volunteer of the Year. Edna died in 2016. See her obituary (below) for more information.

Guenther R. “Kayo” Wittig. (1913–94) Guenther was born in Fredericksburg, TX and died in Austin, TX. His grandparents were German immigrants. During WWII he worked for Brown Instruments in Philadelphia. Brown Instrument Company was a firm known for high-quality instruments such as pyrometer, thermometers, hygrometers, tachometers, pressure gauges, flow meters and electrical meters. While visiting his Aunt in New York City he attended a dance and met Edna E. Hickson (b.1914) from Gloucester City, Camden, New Jersey. They were married and had three children, sons, Arthur Walter (Annapolis Navy pilot) (b. 1945-), and Bruce Harold and daughter Sandra Wittig Timmons. In 1946, Guenther and Edna bought the family dairy farm in Fredericksburg started farming. The severe drought of the middle 50s forced them to abandon farming. Guenther worked a year for a machine shop in Fredericksburg. Edna took their three children and moved to Austin where she enrolled at UT, her goal to be a teacher. She graduated and taught in the Austin School District. Edna saw a position in the University Power Plant advertised on a UT bulletin board. Guenther applied and was hired. He later transferred to Physics and eventually was placed in charge of the Student Machine Shop. Les Deavers helped him when Professor Hughes wound his research down following the death of his wife. In 1963, Harold Hanson, the new chair, appointed Wittig as the supervisor of the main shop. Wittig asked Les to join him; Les doing the scheduling and Guenther doing purchasing. The division of responsibilities continued until Guenther’s retirement in 1977.

Following retirement, Guenther and Edna traveled extensively, including China and New Zealand where they participated in a favorite activity, square dancing. Guenther did not like to fly so they went by ship. They are shown aboard the Kingston Flyer Steam train which operated between Kingston and Fairlight on the South Island. The rolling stock used on the line consists of seven wooden passenger carriages that date as far back as 1898. Unfortunately the Kingston Flyer is no longer in operation.

David Cowan, a graduate student in the 60s remembers him. “I think that Wittig established the first student shop. He was a kind man and was very helpful to graduate students. I learned to do crude work on lathes, milling machines, etc. and when I went to Gettysburg where they had a nice shop, but no machinist, I was the one-eyed man in the valley of the blind.”

From University of Texas Department of Physics—History—Physics Shops,
<https://web2.ph.utexas.edu/utphysicshistory/PhysicsShops.html>.



Edna WITTIG(1914 - 2016)



WITTIG, Edna

Edna E. Wittig died March 26, 2016 at the age of 101. She was born December 18, 1914 in Gloucester, New Jersey, to May Ellen and William H. Hickson.

The family moved across the Delaware River to Philadelphia, PA where she met and married Guenther (Kayo) Wittig from Fredericksburg, TX. Kayo died in 1994.

After business school, Edna worked as a stenographer/secretary for a patent attorney and later as a secretary to the Director of the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory, USDA.

Edna and Kayo were blessed with three children: Arthur (and Joyce) of Prince Frederick, MD, Sandra (and Rick) of Greer, AZ and Bruce (and Nancy) of Austin, TX.

The family moved to Kayo's birthplace, Fredericksburg, TX and then to Austin in 1956. After receiving a BA in English, Masters Degree and additional library science courses from the [University of Texas](#), Edna was a teacher and librarian for AISD until retirement.

Edna and Kayo enjoyed square dancing and traveled widely, including square dancing in New Zealand. She spent almost 20 years following retirement volunteering at numerous places including St. Martin's Lutheran Church School library, Legal Aid Library, Senior Citizen Activity Center and Govalle School. In 1998 she was honored as Austin's Volunteer of the Year.

In addition to her husband, Edna was preceded in death by her parents, brother Bill Hickson and two grandchildren: Shannon Wittig and Scott Timmons. Besides her three children, survivors include four grandchildren: Allison Timmons Romero of Cozumel, Mexico, Gretchen Wittig of Dallas, Wesley Wittig of Richmond, TX and J.J. Wittig of Austin and nine great grandchildren.

The family would like to thank Edna's caregivers over her last years: Patsy Estorga, Nora Cabello, Helen Ramon, Alex Landeros and Jackie Garcia for their loving and excellent care of our mother. Also our appreciation and thanks to Healthsense Hospice for all their wonderful service.

The family will hold a celebration of her life and a memorial service at St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 West 15th Street on Monday, April 18, 2016 at 2:00 PM with Rev. Peder Sandager officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Martin's Lutheran Church.

Obituary for Edna Wittig in Austin American-Statesman, 4/15/2016 to 4/16/2016.

WALTER B. FAUBION

Walter B. Faubion, died in a Dallas hospital Wednesday morning. He was a former resident of Austin, having been employed by The University of Texas for 30 years prior to retiring seven years ago. Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Iley Faubion of Dallas; two sons, W. D. Faubion of Washington State and Urban Faubion of Virginia; two daughters, Miss La Verne Faubion and Miss Mabel Faubion both of Dallas; two brothers, Clark Faubion of Austin and Libburn Faubion of Georgetown; three sisters, Mrs. I. M. Hall and Mrs. Connie Farris, both of Austin, and Mrs. Julius Landry of Lampasas.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday at Capital Memorial Gardens.

Obituary for Walter Faubion in Austin Statesman, 6/2/1966.

Building Permits

Connecting Charge \$1 2.80 *Walter B. Faubion*

Application for Sewer Connection. No. 99904

Sub II Austin, Texas, 11/1/1930

To the Superintendent of Sewer and Public Improvements,
City of Austin, Texas.

I hereby make application for sewer connection and instructions on premises owned by W. D. Faubion

at 2116 Clifton St Street

which place is to be used as a residence

In this place there are to be installed 4 fixtures.

I agree to pay the City Sewer Department the regular ordinance charge.

Respectfully, W. D. Faubion

Location of Public Sewer Reverin Street

Sub Out 11-3-30

Connected 193

Size of Main 6 inches 1 1/2" 90

Size of Service 4 inches 4" 1/2" 8" 1" 1/2" 2"

Feet Deep 3

Feet from Property Line 22

Feet from S curb Line in aft.

Inspected by W. D. Faubion

Connection made by W. D. Faubion

WALTER B. FAUBION

B. 208

Sewer permit for 2116 Clifton, 11/1/1930. Issued to W. D. Faubion.

LOT 5
SW II

WATER SERVICE PERMIT
Austin, Texas

E No 36861
INDEXED

Received of _____ Date _____
Address 2116 Clifton St. Lot 5
Amount No record of service \$ 42.00
Plumber locate & renew with copper if eqv. Size of Tap _____

Checked on street meter

Date of Connection _____
Size of Tap Made 3/4
Size Service Made 3/4
Size Main Tapped 4" C
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 9'
From S Prop. Line to Curb Cock 24'
Location of Meter CURB
Type of Box HOOD
Depth of Main in St. 3'
Depth of Service Line 3'
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 6'
Checked by Engr. Dept. JLR 7-17-61

No. Fittings	8
Pipe	3/4 COP
Curb Cock	3/4
Cop. Iron ell.	
Cop. to Cop. ell.	
Cop. to Iron Coupling	
Cop. to Cop. Coupling	
Angle Stop	3/4
Stop	
Bushing	
Nipples	
Service Clamp	
Valve	
Meter Box	
Lock Lid	
Drain Tile	
Drain Tile Lid	
Stop & Drain	
Job No.	W. 323-502
Foreman	CLM

Water service permit, 7/17/1961.

W. D. Franklin

2116 Clifton Street

381 124

5

Pleasant View

Frame addition to rear of residence
37512
4-29-48 \$55.00

Owner

None

Building permit for rear addition, 4/29/1948. Issued to W. D. Franklin (sic—likely W. D. Faubion).